

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed September 29, 2009, in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. The amendments find clear support in the original application at least in FIG. 5 and page 6, lines 6-9. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Honkonen et al. (US 6,681,764) in view of Willmore (US 2003/0179156). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Honkonen et al. in view of Willmore and Zerhusen et al. (US 2003/0052787). The rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Honkonen discloses a control system for a home ambulatory liquid oxygen system having an oxygen concentrator, a condenser, a cryocooler, a heater and a storage dewar (Abstract). The control block diagram of FIG. 6 shows a mode switch and an indicator connected to a controller. Honkonen states that the liquid level in the dewar is continuously displayed by the indicator (col. 6, lines 33-34; col. 10, lines 29-34 and 48-51).

Willmore discloses an interactive multi-user display arrangement for displaying goods, services and information to the public (¶0002). The arrangement is described as a “video wall” that includes a two-dimensional array of monitors and terminals for display information and for allowing user interaction to occur in a commercial environment. Willmore further discloses an arrangement of individual personal computers for use as information input and output devices. The personal computers are shown as interactive screens and input devices (i.e., keyboards and touchscreens) that are arranged as a row below a matrix of a display region (FIGs. 1 and 5, and ¶0043).

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, a configuration device which is connected with the electric bus and which, after connection of a display/control unit to the electric bus, transmits to

the display/control unit configuration data determining display contents and input areas of the display/control unit via the electric bus, wherein the configuration data further comprises an identification of a medical unit connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values. As described in the subject application, the configuration device enables programming of a selected display/control unit. If a display/control unit fails, the configuration device can program another display/control unit to perform the functions of the failed unit.

In the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Honkonen does not teach a display/control unit including display device activating pixels based on data, a transparent input device, input evaluating device, unit connector between display and control unit via electric bus. However, the Examiner contends that Honkonen discloses a configuration device as claimed. Applicants must respectfully disagree.

Since Honkonen does not teach a display/control unit, Applicants fail to understand how Honkonen can be interpreted to teach a configuration device which transmits configuration data to a display/control unit for configuring a display/control unit. It is respectfully submitted that Honkonen discloses a controller for controlling the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system but does not disclose or even remotely suggest a configuration device, as defined by amended claim 1, that transmits configuration data to a display/control unit for configuring the display/control unit.

Willmore does not provide the teaching that are lacking in Honkonen. In particular, Willmore contains no disclosure or suggestion of a configuration device that transmits configuration data to the display/control unit, the configuration data comprising an identification of a medical unit connectable to the electric bus from which data values are to be received, a criteria for evaluating the received data values and a format for displaying a result of the evaluation of the received data values, as required by amended claim 1. Instead, Willmore

describes a multiplexer which distributes video and voice information to the respective display screens (¶0048).

The Examiner also contends that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the Honkonen teaching of a base unit with the Willmore teaching of a display/control unit for the benefit of improving interaction between the user and the medical equipment. Applicants must respectfully disagree.

Willmore describes a video wall holding a matrix of video display monitors, screens or the like, and a row of terminals by means of which a plurality of consumers may simultaneously perform specified actions (¶0007). The components of the video display region and the interactive display region are built into a supporting rack structure forming the video wall (¶0045). The multi-user display arrangement is used for interactively displaying goods, services and information to the public (¶0002). Applicants fail to understand how it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the video wall of Willmore with the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system described by Honkonen. Contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, Applicants submit that the video wall of Willmore, holding a matrix of video display monitors and terminals, would provide no benefit to the user of the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen. The home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen has no need whatever for multiple display monitors and terminals. Applicants further submit that there would be no reasonable expectation of success in combining the video wall of Willmore and the home ambulatory liquid oxygen system of Honkonen (see MPEP § 2143(G)). Accordingly, Applicants submit that the combination of Honkonen and Willmore is improper and should be withdrawn.

For at least these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Honkonen in view of Willmore, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Based upon the above discussion, claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Docket No. H0075.70110US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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